NUMB. CCCLX.

The SPECTATOR.

——Meliora pii docuere parentes. Hor.

Tuesday, May 27. 1712.

NOTHING has more surprised the Learned in *England*, than the Price which a small Book, Entitled *Spaccio della Bestia triomfante*, bore in a late Auction. This Book was Sold for Fifty Pound. As it was written by one *Jordanus Brunus*, a professed Atheist, with a design to depreciate Religion, every one was apt to fancy, from the extravagant Price it bore, that there must be something in it very formidable.

I must confess, that happening to get a sight of one of them my self, I could not forbear perusing it with this Apprehension, but found there was so very little Danger in it, that I shall venture to give my Readers a fair Account of the whole Plan upon which this wonderful Treatise is built.

The Author pretends that *Jupiter* once upon a time resolved on a Reformation of the Constellations, for which purpose having summoned the Stars together, he complains to them of the great Decay of the Worship of the Gods, which he thought so much the harder, having called several of those Celestial Bodies by the Names of the Heathen Deities, and by that means made the Heavens as it were a Book of the Pagan Theology. *Momus* tells him that this is not to be wondred at, since there were so many Scandalous Stories of the Deities; upon which the Author takes occasion to cast Reflections upon all other Religions, concluding, that *Jupiter* after a full Hearing discarded the Deities out of Heaven, and called the Stars by the Names of the Moral Virtues.

This short Fable, which has no Pretence in it to Reason or Argument, and but a very small share of Wit, has however recommended it self wholly by its subtlety to those weak Men who would distinguish themselves by the Singularity of their Opinions.

There are two Considerations which have been often urged against Atheists, and which they never yet could get over. The first is, that the greatest and most eminent Persons of all Ages have been against them, and always complied with the Publick Forms of Worship established in their respective Countries, when there was nothing in them either derogatory to the Honour of the Supream Being, or prejudicial to the Good of Mankind.

The *Plato's* and *Cicero's* among the Ancients, the *Bacon's*, the *Boyle's* and the *Lock's* among our own Countrymen, are all Instances of what I have been saying, not to mention any of the Divines however Celebrated, since our Adversaries challenge all those as Men who have too much Interest in this Case to be impartial Evidences.

But what has been often urged as a Consideration of much more weight, is not only the Opinion of the better sort, but the general Consent of Mankind in this great Truth, which I think could not possibly have come to pass but from one of the three following Reasons; either that the Idea of a God is innate and co-existent with the Mind it self, or that the Truth is so very obvious that it is discovered at the first Exertion of Reason in Persons of the most ordinary Capacities, or lastly that it has been delivered down to us thro' all Ages by a Tradition from the first Man.

The Atheists are equally confounded, to which ever of these three Causes we assign it; they have been so pressed by this last Argument from the general Consent of Mankind, that after great Search and Pains they pretend to have found out a Nation of Atheists, I mean that Polite People the *Hottentots*.

I dare not shock my Readers with a Description of the Customs and Manners of these Barbarians, who are in every respect scarce one degree above Brutes, having no Language among them, but a confused Gabling which is neither well understood by themselves or others.

It is not however to be imagined how much the Atheists have gloried in these their good Friends and Allies.

If we boast of a *Socrates* or a *Seneca*, they may now confront them with these great Philosophers the *Hottentots*.

Tho' even this Point has, not without Reason, been several times controverted, I see no manner of harm it could do Religion, if we should entirely give them up this Elegant Part of Mankind.

Methinks nothing more shews the Weakness of their Cause, than that no division of their Fellow-Creatures joyn with them, but those among whom they themselves own Reason is almost defaced, and who have little else but their Shape, which can entitle them to any place in the Species.

Besides these poor Creatures, there have now and then been Instances of a few crazed People in several Nations, who have denied the Existence of a Deity.

The Catalogue of these is, however, very short; even *Vanini*, the most celebrated Champion for the Cause, professed before his Judges that he believed the Existence of a God, and taking up a Straw which lay before him on the Ground, assured them, that alone was sufficient to convince him of it; alledging several Arguments to prove that 'twas impossible Nature alone could Create any thing.

I was the other Day reading an Account of *Casimir Liszynski*, a Gentleman of *Poland*, who was convicted and executed for this Crime. The manner of his Punishment was very particular. As soon as his Body was burnt his Ashes were put into a Cannon and shot into the Air towards *Tartary*.

I am apt to believe, that if something like this Method of Punishment should prevail in *England*, such is the natural good Sense of the *British* Nation, that whether we ramm'd an Atheist into a great Gun, or Pulverised our Infidels as they do in *Poland*, we should not have many Charges.

I should, however, propose, while our Amunition lasted, that instead of *Tartary*, we should always keep two or three Cannons ready pointed towards the Cape of *Good-hope*, in order to shoot our Unbelievers into the Country of the *Hottentots*.

In my Opinion, a Solemn judicial Death is too great an Honour for an Atheist, tho' I must allow the

the Method of exploding him, as it is practiſed in this ludicrous kind of Martyrdom, has ſomething in it proper to the nature of his Offence.

There is indeed a great Objection againſt this manner of treating them. Zeal for Religion is of ſo active a Nature that it ſeldom knows where to reſt; for which reaſon I am afraid, after having diſcharged our Atheiſts, we might poſſibly think of ſhooting off our Sectaries; and, as one does not foreſee the Viciſſitude of Human Affairs, it might one time or other come to a Man's own turn to fly out of the Mouth of a Demi-Culverin.

If any of my Readers imagine that I have treated theſe Gentlemen in too Ludicrous a Manner, I muſt confeſs, for my own part, I think reaſoning againſt ſuch Unbelievers upon a Point that ſhocks the Common Senſe of Mankind, is doing them too great an Honour, giving them a Figure in the Eye of the World, and making People fancy that they have more in them than they really have.

As for thoſe Perſons who have any Scheme of Religious Worſhip, I am for treating ſuch with the utmoſt Tenderneſs, and ſhould endeavour to ſhew them their Errors with the greateſt Temper and Humanity; but as theſe Miſcreants are for throwing down Religion in general, for ſtripping Mankind of what themſelves own is of excellent Uſe in all great Societies, without once offering to eſtabliſh any thing in the Room of it, I think the beſt way of dealing with them, is to retort their own Weapons upon them, which are thoſe of Scorn and Mockery.

The Corpus Poetarum, with a good Index, in 2 Vols. Folio, will be certainly finiſhed and ready for the Subſcribers by the 20th of June next. This Work will make near fifty Sheets more than was at firſt propoſed; therefore Notice is hereby given, that no Perſon will be admitted as a Subſcriber upon the Conditions of the Propoſals (which was one Guinea down, and another upon Delivery) but ſuch who ſhall ſubſcribe before the 10th Day of June next; at which time the Subſcription will be cloſed, and the Names of the Subſcribers Printed. The loweſt Price afterwards will be Three Pounds in Quires. Subſcriptions are taken in by J. Nicholſon in Little Britain, B. Tooke at the Temple-Gate, and J. Tonſon in the Strand, and by moſt other Bookſellers in Town and Country. N. B. There are a ſmall Number Printed upon large Paper at Four Guineas in Quires.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Not Acted theſe Five Years.

At the Deſire of ſeveral Ladies of Quality.

For the Benefit of Mr. Husband and Mr. Elrington.

By Her Majeſty's Company of Comedians,

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, this preſent Tueſday, being the 27th Day of May, will be revived a Play call'd, Don Sebaſtian King of Portugal. By her Majeſty's Command no Perſons are to be admitted behind the Scenes.

AT the Queen's Theatre in the Hay-Market, to morrow being Wedneſday, the 28th of March, will be performed an Opera called Antiochus. Being the laſt time of performing it this Seaſon. Boxes 8s. Pit 5 s. Firſt Gallery 2 s. 6 d. Upper Gallery 1 s. 6 d. Boxes upon the Stage half a Guinea. And by reaſon of the hot Weather, the Water-Fall will play. To begin exactly at ſix. By her Majeſty's Command no Perſons are to be admitted behind the Scenes.

For SALE by the CANDLE.

On Friday the 30th Inſtant, at Lloyd's Coffee-Houſe in Lombard ſtreet at 5 in the Afternoon, (only one Cask in a Lot) 20 Puncheons of excellent French Prize Brandy, (Bourdeaux and Coignac) full proof, near, an entire Parcel, (not any having been ſold out or expoſed to Sale) juſt landed; now in a Warehouſe fronting the Thames at Sommers-Key between London-bridge and Billingſgate. To be ſeen and taſted to-morrow and Thurſday from 8 to 1, and from 2 to 6, and all Friday 'till the time of Sale. To be ſold by Tho. Tomkins, Broker in Seething lane in Tower ſtreet.

For SALE by the CANDLE.

On Friday the 30th Inſtant, at Lloyd's Coffee-Houſe in Lombard ſtreet, at 9 in the Forenoon, (only 1 Cask in a Lot) viz. 38 Pipes of excellent new Red Canary Florence Wines, deep, bright, ſtrong and freſh, neat, an entire Parcel; in a Vault againſt Mr. Peter Knowles at the Blue Peſts near the Chain between Gold Square in Crouched Fryars and Tower hill. 4 Buts and 3 Hhds of Mountain (dry) Malaga Wines, in a Vault next the abovesaid Vault. 20 Pipes of excellent new White, and 10 Pipes of new Red Oporto Wine, deep, bright, ſtrong and freſh; and 10 Pipes of new Red Vianna Wines, deep, freſh, &c. and 10 Hhds of new Oporto Sum; imported by the Friendſhip laſt from Briſtol, and the only Oporto Wines of the very laſt Vintage in the Merchants Hands, neat and entire; now in a Cellar in the Alley on Cox Key between London-Bridge and Billingſgate. Alſo 10 Buts of excellent new Rota Tent Wines, very rich, deep, bright and neat, in a Vault in Foulks's Buildings in Water lane, before the Cuſtom-houſe and Tower-ſtreet. All to be ſeen and taſted this Day, to Morrow, and Thurſday, from 7 to 1, and from 2 to 7. Note, The Buyers are deſired to appear punctually at the Hour appointed, the Sale being to be compleated without adjourning. To be ſold by Tho. Tomkins, Broker in Seething lane in Tower ſtreet.

For SALE by the CANDLE.

On Thurſday the 5th of June, at Lloyd's Coffee-Houſe in Lombard ſtreet, at 9 in the Forenoon, The entire Cargo of (the Ship) The Abraham and Iſaac, Henry Wolfe Maſter, conſiſting of about 160 Pipes, Hhds, and quarter Casks, of excellent new White Malmſy Maderas Wines, &c. rich, racy, and of a curious Flavour, and the beſt Wines that has been imported from Maderas, neat, and not any part ſold out of the ſaid Cargo, juſt landed, and now in Cellars at Smarts-Key between Billingſ-gate and the Cuſtom houſe. To be ſeen on Monday the 2d, Tueſday the 3d, and Wedneſday the 4th of June, from 7 to 1, and from 2 to 7, and from 7 to 9 (in the Morning) being the Hour of Sale on Thurſday the 5th, as above. Note, the Buyers are deſired to appear punctually at the Hour appointed, becauſe the Lots are very many. To be ſold by Tho. Tomkins, Broker in Seething-lane in Tower-ſtreet.

For SALE by the CANDLE.

On Wedneſday the 28th Inſtant, at Lloyd's Coffee-houſe in Lombard-ſtreet, at 6 in the Afternoon, (only one Cask in a Lot) viz. 7 Pipes of Maderas new White Wine, 5 Pipes of new Paſſada rich and racy, and 4 Buts of excellent new Sweet Malaga Wines, very rich and neat, juſt arriv'd from Briſtol by Land-Carriage; now in a Cellar under the Houſe of Mr. John Jeſſon, Grocer, at the end of Lime ſtreet in Fenchurch ſtreet. And 24 Hhds of French Brandy, full Proof and neat, in a Cellar with in Bell-Court next the Bell Ale houſe in Mincing-lane in Fenchurch ſtreet. All to be ſeen and taſted this Day from 7 to 1, and from 2 to 7, and all Wedneſday till the time of Sale. To be ſold by Tho. Tomkins, Broker, in Seething lane in Tower-ſtreet.

At the Mountain Wine-Cellar under the Royal South-Sea Coffee houſe in Broad ſtreet, is ſold by retail excellent Mountain Malaga Wine at 6 s. 8 d. per Gallon or 11 s. 9 d. per Quart, and Red Viana Wine at 13 d. per Bottle; ſuch Perſons as take three Gallons ſhall pay but 12 s. there being 13 Bottles, warranted all neat and pure from the Grape.

Loſt from a Gentlewoman's Side, on Sunday the 25th Inſtant, in or about the Temple Church, a Gold ouſide Caſe of a Watch, being pretty large, lin'd with in with Red Sattin, and over that a Cut Paper, having ſome ſmall houſes on the outſide. Whoever ſhall give Notice of it to Mr. Sanger Bookſeller, at the Poſt Houſe at the Middle Temple Gate ſhall receive as a Reward 3 Guineas, without any Queſtions aſked.

Verdier's Hummums is in Belton-ſtreet, at the end of Brownlow ſtreet near Drury-lane; where Perſons may privately be Sweated, Bathed or Cupped with the ſame Inſtrument he himſelf firſt Invented, and exceeds all others, and is uſed no where elſe but at the ſaid Widow Verdier's, tho' ſeveral have and do ſtill endeavour to Counterfeit the ſame. All Perſons who deſire to be Cupped at their own Houſes, ſhall be carefully attended by her Partner (a Germin) Daniel Hahn, who has practiſed it theſe many Years paſt, not as it is malignantly reported the Houſe is left off.

There is lately brought over from Italy a ſmall Quantity of very rich Diſtilled Waters, made by Trofeme Ribeyra Principal Diſtiller to his Royal Highneſs the Duke of Savoy. They are all put into Cheſts, each of which contains 24 Bottles (3 to a full Quart) and conſiſts of the 4 following Select Sorts, viz. Millefleurs, Orangiat, Bergamot, and Perſico, they are all of a double Spirit, and diſtilled in the ſame manner as the Citron Waters of Barbadoes, and of the ſame Strength, yet they are much pleaſanter, and but one third of the Price. They are really true and genuine as they were imported, and may be ſeen and taſted every Day at Mr. Paul Girard's at the three Flower-de Luces next Door to Northumberland-Houſe near Charing-Croſs; where they are ſold in order for a quick Sale only at 3 Guineas per Cheſt. N. B. There has been none of theſe ſorts in England, unleſs in Preſents, theſe 5 Years paſt.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertiſements are taken in; as alſo by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.